

Juan Valenzuela

State Capitol Day Porter

Labor Committee Public Hearing in support of RB 6502

AAC The Standard Wage For Certain CT Workers

March 3, 2009

Members of the Labor Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Juan Valenzuela, and I work as a Day Porter here at the LOB and the State Capitol building. Many of you already know me since we work in the same building.

Today, I want to take the opportunity to introduce you to someone you don't know.

This is my daughter, RoseMarie. She's four-years-old, and she's one of the children who will lose her health care if you don't pass this bill to amend the Standard Wage Law.

I know that you're looking to save money from the State budget, but cutting off this little girl's health care is not the way to do it.

RoseMarie's not alone. Felipe has a son, Diana has two children and Margaret has two children who all depend on the health care we receive through our jobs as cleaners at state buildings.

Beyond our families, there are another 350 children who will lose their health care.

We're working hard, and we don't want to put our children onto HUSKY and other public health care programs.

The truth is: we don't make enough to pay for health care premiums, and if our children lose their health care, many of them will end up on HUSKY. For more than a year, we've been asking you to amend the Standard Wage Law, and we can't wait another moment. Please, move swiftly to pass this bill to amend the Standard Wage Law.